Statement

The number of inspections, prosecutions and convictions during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Prosecutions	No. of Convictions
1997	12,340	5,084	3,270
1998	11,547	4,673	2,325
1999	8,798	3,961	1,359

*Figures are provisional

Comprehensive Labour Policy

†2355. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for preparing a new comprehensive employment and labour policy is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the new employment and labour policy;

(c) the date from which it is proposed to implement the new policy; and

(d) what positive steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Review and updating of Labour Policy is a continuous process to make it in consonance with emerging needs. The thrust of the labour Policy during the 9th Five Year Plan is on consolidation of the base created through tripartism for maintaining industrial peace and harmony. The thrust of employment policy during the 9th Five Year Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the process of growth by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive. There are also special programmes to promote employment, develop skills, enhance technological levels and strengthen infrastructure.

Journalist and Non-Journalist Employees of Visual Media

2356. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that jorunalist and non-journalist employees of the visual media are not covered under Working Journalist and other News Papers Employees Act; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to amend the Act to bring the journalist and non-journalist employees of visual media under the purview of this Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service)and Misc. Provisions Act, 1955 does not cover the employees of visual media.

(b) There is no proposal to amend the Act.

Implementation of ESIC Scheme in Maharashtra

2357. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems in effective implementation of E.S.I.C. scheme in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, Governments reaction on various problems; and

(c) any steps taken or proposed by the Government in resolving the problem by assisting Maharahstra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The problems in implementation of the ESI Scheme in Maharashtra relate, inter-alia, to non-commissioning of newly constructed hospitals, shortage of doctors, drugs, dressings, equipments in the ESI hospitals/ dispensaries, lack of super speciality treatment etc.

(b) and (c) The ESIC has constructed three new hospitals i.e. one each at Chinchwad, Bibwewardi and Kolhapur and requested the Government of Maharashtra for their commissioning as it is the responsibility of the State Government to administer ESI medical care in the State. The ESIC has prescribed norms/ guidelines with regard to staffing and equipping of the ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries. The Corporation is also meeting 7/8th of the expenditure on running of hospitals/dispensaries subject to the ceiling prescribed under the scheme. In order to bring improvement in the working of the ESI hospitals/dispensaries, the ESIC has recently formulated an Action Plan and forwarded the same to the state Governments including the